

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/721,734

Examiner

Jianchun Qin

Applicant(s)

SAUNDERS, CRAIG

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/25/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

DAVID MARTIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Mcilvaine, 4395-031962 on August 2, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Change the dependency of claim 14 from "claim 14" to --claim 13--.

Change the dependency of claim 16 from "claim 16" to --claim 15--.

Change the dependency of claim 17 from "claim 17" to --claim 16--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1-17 is the inclusion of the limitation of an elongated member having a first end portion secured to a contact

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member, and an opposite second end portion secured to an attachment member, wherein with the attachment member secured to the key, displacing the contact member in a predetermined direction displaces the key in the predetermined direction, wherein the key has a touch plate area and the contact member has a contact area greater than the touch plate area of the key. It is this limitation found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 18 is the inclusion of the limitations of: a deformable rod having a first end portion and an opposite second end portion, with a first part of a first securing arrangement on the first end portion of the rod and a first part of a second securing arrangement on the second end portion of the rod; a contact member having a second part of the first securing arrangement with the first and second parts of the first securing arrangement joined together; and an attachment member having a second part of the second securing arrangement with the first and second parts of the second securing arrangement joined together. It is these limitations found in the claim, as they are claimed in the combination that have not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which make this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 19 is the inclusion of the claimed method steps of providing at least two key extenders, each having an elongated member and a contact member positioned at one end of the elongated member; shaping at least one of the elongated members such that upon attachment of the elongated member to a key the contact members are adjacent to and spaced from one

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another; attaching the elongated members to selected ones of the keys. It is these limitations found in the claim, as they are claimed in the combination that have not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which make this claim allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art Citations

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1) Saboia De Albuquerque (U. S. Pat. No. 5753840) is entitled "Support for the arms and hands of a user of a keyboard, drawing, knitting instrument or apparatus".

2) Benson (U. S. Pub. No. 20050129447) is entitled "Keyboard structure".

3) Tyner (U. S. Pat. No. 6644605) is entitled "Computer keyboard tray".

Contact Information


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jianchun Qin whose telephone number is (571) 272-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jianchun Qin
Examiner
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JQ
August 2, 2005